

August 24, 2018

Dear Performer/Educator, Musician, Storyteller, Artist, Magician:

Although summer 2018 is only just ending, the Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS) is already planning for next year's Summer Reading Program! OLIS staff is currently coordinating the statewide Summer Reading Program's Performers' Showcase for 2019.

You are receiving this message because you have either performed as a summer reading presenter in the past, you have been recommended to OLIS as a performer, you have contacted OLIS to inquire about the showcase, or you are listed on the Rhode Island State Council for the Arts Education Roster. We have tried to be comprehensive in reaching out to potential performers, but would appreciate your help if you think we've left someone out. Feel free to forward this email to other performers/educators or share this opportunity with your contacts. Many of you may be mentors to a new generation of storytellers, musicians, artists, etc., so you may want to reach out to them. OLIS appreciates your help in spreading the word.

Performer/Educator Applications are available online and must be submitted by Tuesday, October 23 at 12:00 PM.

If you offer programs for both children and teens, please submit only one application and indicate you offer programs for both age groups.

Children's and Teen Summer Reading Program Performer Application:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/showcase19>

General information about Rhode Island's Summer Reading Program is available online at

<http://www.olis.ri.gov/reading/srp/index.php>

2019 Children's and Teen Summer Reading Program: "A Universe of Stories"

Each year, OLIS develops a list of approximately 8-12 performers/educators to provide programs to children ages pre-K to 10, and tweens/teens ages 10 & up in libraries during the summer reading program. Performers, or performing groups, present an average of 5-40 programs over the course of the summer. There is a wide range in the number of programs presented because, while the Youth Services Advisory Council (7 children's and teen librarians) selects the final slate of presenters, each library books its own programs. OLIS serves as an organizer and convener, not a selector.

These performances are given in 70 public library buildings across the state and are booked from mid-June through mid-August. The fee paid for each 45-60 minute performance is \$160.00. The 2019 theme is "A Universe of Stories."

To select the performers/educators, OLIS schedules an annual Summer Reading Program Performers' Showcase. In past years, OLIS has held a separate showcase for the Children's Summer Reading Program and the Teen Summer Reading Program. This year the two showcases will be combined and include presentations suited for both age groups. **The showcase will take place on Thursday, January 10, 2019 from 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM (snow date: 1/17/19) at the Warwick Public Library located at 600 Sandy Lane Warwick, RI 02889.** Each performer or performing group prepares a 10-15 minute program which is performed or presented/described in front of children's and teen librarians from around the state. Each performer or group is encouraged to bring flyers or other promotional materials to distribute. Following the showcase, the Youth Services Advisory Council will review feedback from showcase attendees and select 8-12 performers to invite to the booking meeting. Libraries also book shows during other times of the year so this is also an opportunity to present your program to a large group of librarians.

Based on the applications received, 15 presenters will be selected to perform at the Showcase on January 10. In selecting educators to perform, priority is given to people who have not been summer reading performers in the past. Second priority is given to presenters who have not been part of the summer reading program for at least

4 years. After these, we will include performers who have performed in the recent past, but would like to debut new material related to this year's theme. The Youth Services Advisory Council will consider all presenters who submit applications and descriptions. All presenters will be given equal consideration.

Block Booking Meeting for Children's and Teen Programs

Once the performers/educators for the summer have been selected and agree to perform, they are invited to the block booking meeting. **This year's block booking meeting is Thursday, January 31, 2019 at the Warwick Public Library from 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM (snow date: 2/12/19).** Each performer lists days and or times when they are not available to make things run as smoothly as possible during the booking. After the meeting each performer's schedule is posted online, so there is minimal work for performers in developing their own summer calendars.

What to Consider Before Applying:

Performing in the statewide summer reading program means accepting some common terms and conditions. If you have any questions or concerns about these terms, please feel free to contact Danielle Margarida at danielle.margarida@olis.ri.gov or 401-574-9309. However, the terms listed below are not negotiable.

1. If selected as a Summer Reading Program performer, agreeing to present between 5 and 40 programs in RI public libraries between mid-June and mid-August as scheduled. The number of performances booked at RI libraries cannot be predicted ahead of time; librarians book the presenters they would like to hire. OLIS organizes the booking meeting, but does not set up requirements for which programs (or how many) the libraries book.
2. Accepting \$160.00 per program. There is no money available to pay for travel fees, preparation or supplies; the \$160 is all-inclusive. Performers may offer libraries the opportunity to double book their program for an additional \$160.00 if the library is interested in extending the program beyond 60 minutes or beyond the audience size limit.
3. Being able to attend the Summer Reading Program booking meeting (if selected by the Youth Services Advisory Council) on January 31, 2019 (snow date: 2/12/19). Each summer reading performer/educator will be responsible for filling their own calendar on that date.
4. Completing the application by 12:00 PM ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23. The application form will automatically close at this time and will not be accessible for late submissions. Please contact Danielle Margarida at danielle.margarida@olis.ri.gov or 401-574-9309 with any questions or if you have difficulty with this application.
5. Rhode Island library staff are not eligible to apply.

Please note: OLIS pays for one children's performer and one teen performer per library. Libraries may also book more than one children's performer and one teen performer, but they are responsible for paying for performances beyond the ones funded by OLIS. Because of this, some of your programs will be paid for by OLIS and some may be paid for by the library that booked your program. OLIS determines which programs will be paid for by OLIS and which programs will be paid for by the booking library. OLIS makes every effort to ensure a balance between the programs paid for by OLIS and the programs paid for by the booking library.

Sincerely,
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Youth Services Coordinator
Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services
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401-574-9309